Good Afternoon:

I'm writing to bring the South Lake Washington boating community up to date on the status of the Lakewood and Leschi moorages.

As you may already know, Superintendent Jesús Aquirre has awarded Foss Waterway Management (FWM) the right to negotiate a contract to redevelop and operate the moorages. We are extremely confident that FWM shares the same commitment to public access, safety, affordability, preservation of the sailing heritage at Leschi, environmental responsibility and on-going capital upkeep and maintenance to ensure the moorages last for generations to come.

We will spend the next few months finalizing a contract with FWM that identifies the key components of our partnership agreement and clarifies the public benefits of their investment. I cannot overemphasize that the proposal that was accepted from FWM, and published on our website, does not contain the final designs for the moorages. FWM will be hosting a series of discussions to hear from the boating community, neighbors, local businesses, and other interested parties to gather input towards design plans. We are working with FWM on an outreach schedule to get your input for the future design. We will make sure that invitations to meetings are sent out at least two weeks in advance. In addition, FWM will be in the neighborhood inspecting the docks; if you see them around, please stop by and introduce yourself.

As you know, we have all been very concerned about the outer docks at South Leschi. Peggy Tosdal has added chains and floatation to keep them together and afloat. Parks and Recreation is not comfortable delaying the replacement work any longer, and now that we are getting clarity on how we will be moving forward, we are making significant efforts to replace them. This work cannot wait for a contract to be negotiated with FWM, but any work we do will be closely coordinated with Foss. We have asked for expedited authority to proceed with permitting and contracting thru the City Contracting and Purchasing group. We will keep you updated as the process moves forward.

SPR is delighted to be moving forward at last. I feel very confident that we will successfully negotiate a contract that retains the small boat traditions of these moorages and finally ensures the needed re-development. Although the final designs will not be developed until the contract has been approved by the City Council, we can assure you that FWM shares our commitment to not only preserving the current programming at Leschi and the small boat heritage, but enhancing these programs and adding additional opportunities for the public to enjoy the waters of Lake Washington. Our goal is to have a contract in place before Labor Day.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Paul Wilkinson

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